

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 12-20 are in the case. Claims 1-8 and 16-20 are allowed and claim 12 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, for which indication the applicants thank the examiner. Claims 9-10 and 13-15 are rejected under 35 USC § 103 over USPN 6,222,630 to Wasserman in view of USPN 4,708,483 to Lorenz and further in view of USPN 5,602,400 to Kawashima. The drawings are objected to. Claim 9 has been amended and claim 12 has been canceled. No new matter has been introduced by the amendments, which are supported by the disclosure of the original claims and the specification. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The drawings are objected to because, it is said, the boxes are not labeled in text. Applicants have attempted to revise the drawings, and have discovered that such text labels would have to be in a font that is smaller than permissible by the rules, and would also unnecessarily complicate and encumber the drawers. Applicants have carefully reviewed the rules and the MPEP, and the only reference to this objection that applicants can find is in MPEP 608.02(b), wherein it is said, "In bracket 1, insert the reason for the objection, for example, --the drawings do not show every feature of the invention specified in the claims-- or --the unlabeled rectangular box(es) shown in the drawings should be provided with descriptive text labels--. Applicants suggest that this comment is in regard to boxes that are not labeled at all. However, the boxes used in the present figures are labeled with text, which text is the labels provided in each box. Applicants note that similarly-labeled light-path drawings are provided in the references cited by the examiner. For these reasons, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and removal of the objection to the drawings.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claims 12 is objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. However, the office action states that this claim would be allowable if rewritten so as to not depend from a rejected base claim, and to contain all the limitations of the base claim and any

intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 9 to include the limitations of claim 12. Therefore, claim 9 and those claims depending therefrom are now allowable. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER §103

Claims 9-10 and 13-15 are rejected over Wasserman in view of Lorenz and further in view of Kawashima. Independent claim 9 has been amended to include the limitations of allowable claim 12. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 9-10 and 13-15 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that the claims of the present application patentably define over the prior art made of record and not relied upon for the same reasons as given above. Applicants respectfully submit that a full and complete response to the office action is provided herein, and that the application is now fully in condition for allowance. Action in accordance therewith is respectfully requested.

In the event this response is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for the appropriate extension of time and request that the fee for the extension be charged to deposit account 12-2355. If other fees are required by this amendment, such as fees for additional claims, such fees may be charged to deposit account 12-2252.

Sincerely,

LUEDEKA, NEELY & GRAHAM, P.C.

By: 

Rick Barnes, 39,596

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